

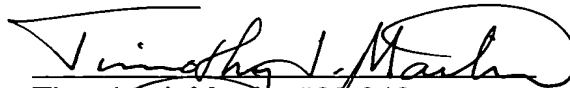
Remarks

The present Preliminary Amendment is submitted in regard to the above-identified application. This Preliminary Amendment corrects the "Related Applications" section of the present application so that it claims the benefit of the prior filed U.S. Application Serial No. 09/114,009, which was filed on July 10, 1998 rather than October 7, 1998, as previously stated. In accordance with the provisions of 37 C.F.R. § 1.121(b)(1)(ii), a clean form of the amended paragraph is included herewith as a separate sheet. Should there be any questions regarding this Preliminary Amendment, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact the undersigned attorney for the Applicant.

No fees are believed to be due as a result of this Preliminary Amendment. However, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency in the payment of the required fee(s) or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-1940.

Respectfully submitted,

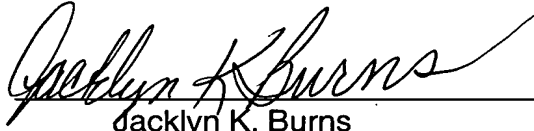
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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.8

I hereby certify that the foregoing **PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT** is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first-class mail in an envelope addressed to Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on this 26th day of February, 2002.



Jacklyn K. Burns